

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 10873 291653Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
/059 W

-----127953 292021Z /73

R 291640Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9460
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10873

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: RECENT GERMAN COMMENTS ON AWACS

1. GENERAL JUERGEN BRANDT, CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL/
MILITARY OFFICE IN THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY, HAS TOLD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 10873 291653Z

US THAT THE FRG COMMITMENT TO AWACS AT THE MARCH 25
MEETING REMAINS BINDING AND THAT THE FRG WILL ABIDE BY
IT. HE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT LEBER HAS TO KEEP IN MIND:

--THE GERMAN MILITARY, WHO REMAIN ALMOST TOTALLY
OPPOSED TO AWACS BECAUSE IT WILL TAKE MONEY FROM THEIR

PROGRAMS. THIS, BRANDT OBSERVED, LEBER WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE.

--THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG, WHERE THE OPPOSITION HAS ASKED FOR VERY PRECISE COSTING AND WHERE A NUMBER OF BUNDESTAG MEMBERS WHO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN ACCURATELY INFORMED OF FOLLOW-ON COSTS ARE RAISING A LOT OF QUESTIONS. THIS, BRANDT SAID, CAN ONLY BE TAKEN CARE OF BY PROVIDING ACCURATE AND DETAILED ESTIMATES.

--THE NATO DISCUSSIONS, WHICH ARE CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER. HERE, BRANDT OBSERVED, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO FORMULATE A PRECISE MILITARY REQUIREMENT THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY CAN PUT BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT AND BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG. MOREOVER, BRANDT OBSERVED, IT WOULD ALSO BE ESSENTIAL TO HAVE THE MOST DETAILED POSSIBLE PICTURE OF FOLLOW-ON COSTS AND OPERATING EXPENSES. HE ADDED RATHER CAUSTICALLY THAT TO DATE LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.

2. BRANDT SAID THAT A LOT OF STAFF PAPERS WERE BEING STUDIED IN THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE NOTED THAT MOST OF THEM WERE BASED ON AN ESTIMATE OF 18 AWACS AIRCRAFT, WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE THE FINAL NATO REQUIREMENT. HE ADDED THAT THOSE STAFF PAPERS GENERALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 10873 291653Z

ASSUMED THAT NATO WOULD NOT BEAR THE COSTS OF MAKING THE AWACS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NIMROD AND THAT IT WAS ALSO GENERALLY ASSUMED IN THE FRG THAT THE ALLIANCE WOULD NOT AGREE TO BASE AWACS IN ENGLAND AFTER THE UK DECISION TO GO FOR NIMROD. CERTAINLY, HE SAID, THE FRG WOULD FAVOR BASING ON THE CONTINENT.

3. BRANDT SAID HE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, ONCE THE COST FIGURES WERE OBTAINED, TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON DIVISION OF COSTS AMONG PARTICIPATING NATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FRG WOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN GERMANY, BRANDT SAID THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD MADE NO DECISION BUT THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM (BRANDT) THAT SEPTEMBER MIGHT BE A REASONABLE DATE. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO PIN SUCH A DATE DOWN RIGHT NOW.

5. IN A FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION, MINISTER LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, BLOCH, HAS TOLD US THAT THE LATEST

PAPERS BEING STAFFED FOR LEBER ON AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION
HERE OFFER BOTH SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER DATES AS POSSIBLE
OPTIONS FOR A DEMONSTRATION. BLOCH BELIEVES IT IS MORE
LIKELY THAT THE GERMANS WILL ASK FOR THE DEMONSTRATION
IN OCTOBER BECAUSE THE CHANCELLOR'S SCHEDULE IN SEPTEMBER
IS ALREADY VERY HEAVY.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AWACS, AIR DEFENSE, WARNING SYSTEMS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN10873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770232-0905
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977069/aaaaahfi.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cb9bb784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2272961
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT GERMAN COMMENTS ON AWACS
TAGS: MILI, GE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb9bb784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009